



# the visual **faith** project

## A Visual Faith Experience Eye Exam or I Opener

By Dr. Dick Hardel

**Theme: Eye Exam or I Opener** (Luke 11:33-36)

### Intended Audience

Although this experience would work well with any type of small group from youth to senior adult, it would enhance the experience to have an intergenerational small group or groups because of the variety of health issues and experiences. It would be interesting to especially invite people who wear glasses, wear contacts, or need no assistance in seeing well.

### Outcome of Experience

The participants will learn how important it is to place a light physically and spiritually where it aids a person to see. The participants will learn the importance of an eye exam and an I exam. Through the discussions we will explore what causes us to not see clearly physically and spiritually.

### Introduce Experience

The word “light” appears in the Bible over 230 times. The word “behold” appears in Scripture over 400 times. There are hundreds more references to “see.” Light and seeing are very important in the stories and teaching in the Bible. When we are having trouble with our vision, most often we make an appointment with an ophthalmologist or optometrist to examine our eyes. They are trained to use the latest equipment to improve our vision. When a person is having trouble seeing God’s presence in the world and in his or her life, that person needs an I exam to discover what is needed to enlighten one’s faith and life. The following short text of Scripture expresses both the need for light physically and also spiritually.

### Scripture - Luke 11:33-36

*33 “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”*



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## Eye Exam or I Opener continued...

### Image Selection

Instruct the participants to read this text of Scripture carefully, then choose one or two images that depict the results of having healthy eyes or unhealthy eyes or that clearly distinguishes between light and darkness as mentioned in this text of Scripture.

### Facilitators Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. How do the images that you have chosen connect to this Scripture text?
2. What are some diseases or causes of people not seeing clearly and what are some dangers of not seeing clearly?
3. To help other see God's presence in their lives, what spiritual tools might you use to give an I exam?
4. Have you ever experienced an I exam? What are your feelings about receiving such an exam?
5. Why would Jesus use this story of the importance of light to one's eye and the eye as a lamp for the body?
6. How does this story or the images you have chosen connect to you?

### Image Selection

Choose one or two images that demonstrate the importance of good lighting for vision or a type of eye exam.

### Facilitators Questions To Guide the Discussion

1. Have you had a good experience or a negative experience with an eye exam?  
What were some emotions you were feeling the first time you had an eye exam?
2. How do your image(s) connect to your experiences with light or lack of light?
3. Have you ever experienced being in darkness for a very long time?  
What was that experience like, what were you feeling during that time?
4. What are some causes of people not being able to see well?
5. What ministries or organizations are you aware of that help people improve their vision?



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## Eye Exam or I Opener continued...

### Application

- What are some spiritual tools that help people see God's presence in their lives?
- What do you do to increase God's light in your life?
- How has the Holy Spirit enlightened your faith and life?
- What has been a major I Opener in your life?
- How might you bring God's light to others so that they can see God's presence in their lives?

### Closing Prayer Time

As the facilitator, create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Place a cross in the center of a table and invite the participants to quickly find 3 or 4 images of some type of light and place them on the table around the cross. Ask the participants to give you 14 different two-syllable (or two one syllable) types of lights.

Write them on a large piece of newsprint in two columns of 7 types of light and attach the newsprint to a wall or easel so all can see.

Or use the following list and sing down the columns to the tune of "Amazing Grace."

<b>Campfire</b>	<b>Glow Stick</b>
<b>Neon</b>	<b>Lightning</b>
<b>Flashlight</b>	<b>Spot Light</b>
<b>Solar</b>	<b>Head Lamp</b>
<b>Light Bulb</b>	<b>Phone Light</b>
<b>Headlight</b>	<b>Matches</b>
<b>Candle</b>	<b>Jesus</b>

### Image Packs

We recommend the Youth Pack (set of 100 printed images) for use with this experience or other images that you may already have. You can find the Youth Pack at: <https://vibrantfaith.org/shop/visualfaithcards>